

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

BULLETIN

VOL. 2, No. 3

JAN.-FEB., 1943

"HAUNTS FOR THE HUNTED"

This is your February bill-of-fare . . . 14 kinds of ducks, 3 types of geese, 4 varieties of grebes, 4 species of gulls and terns, 5 sorts of shore-birds, and a host of others . . . 41 different birds in all! That's what's in store for you at the Kubichek lecture, Monday, Feb. 8th, 8 P.M., at the St. Louis University Auditorium, 3642 Lindell. "Haunts for the Hunted" by W. F. Kubichek, of the U. S. Dept. of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, is an amazing all-color motion picture lecture. You'll long remember these spectacular shots: Western Grebe, actually walking on the surface of water; Whooping Crane, of which fewer than 80 now exist; Trumpeter Swan, whose present number is about 222; Sharp-tailed Grouse, "jitterbug" among birds. Mr. Kubichek is known for his "Winchellizing" of birds via camera, and after you've seen "Haunts for the Hunted", you'll certainly know what it means for a bird to be "Winchellized"! Quoting Mr. Kubichek, "To get such intimate pictures of birds, you have to outwit them . . . and outsit them!" Don't miss this lecture!



W. F. KUBICHEK

THE ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting of the Club, Jan. 4th, the following officers were reelected: Wayne Short, President; Luther Ely Smith, Vice-president; Alberta Bolinger, Treasurer. The Club regretfully accepted the resignations of its former Secretary, Mrs. H. R. Grummann, and Editor, Miss Helen Seevers. The membership voted to send letters of appreciation for the commendable work these two retiring officers have done. The new officers who will take their places are: Anne Bayha, Secretary; Don Menke, Editor.

Two hundred members and their guests heard Mrs. Virginia Eifert, of the Illinois State Museum, lecture on "Birds in Your Back Yard" and after the lecture milled around the rostrum in admiration, so handsome were the artist's drawings. Many wanted her book, and so many took advantage of the bargain price of 60 cents per copy, 2½ cents under cost of production, that Mrs.

Eifert must have suffered quite a financial reversal for the evening! You'll surely want "Birds in Your Back Yard" too. Just write the Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois.

REMAINING LECTURES OF THE CLUB'S 1942-'43 SCHEDULE

Monday, Feb. 8th

W. F. Kubichek, U. S. Dept. of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. "Haunts for the Hunted" . . . all color motion pictures. FREE. Open to public.

Tuesday, March 2nd

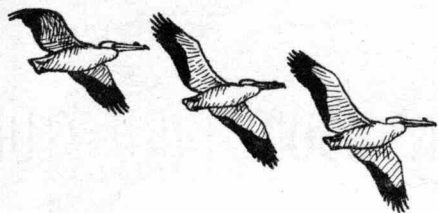
Alfred M. Bailey, Director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colo. "Color in the Southwest" . . . all-color motion pictures. FREE. Open to public.

Monday, April 5th

A. A. Allen, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. "Listening in on the Home Life of Birds." . . . all-color, SOUND motion pictures, featuring songs of our common birds. BIRD CLUB LOYALTY NIGHT. Admission fifty cents. Open to public.

Friday, May 7th

Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Southern Representative, National Audubon Society, Charleston, S.C. "Shooting Wildlife with a Camera" . . . all-color pictures. FREE. Open to public.



ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

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Jan.-Feb., 1943

OFFICERS

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Don Menke, Editor

Helen Seevers, Assistant Editor

Marvin Beckmann..... Ethel Wolfe

Marjorie Smith

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LOOKING AHEAD

The newly appointed members of the Editorial Staff are feeling their way cautiously with this first Bulletin hoping to live up to the very high standards set by last year's splendid editions. The unselfish contributions of time and talent on the part of the 1942 group, Miss Seevers and her assistants, are sincerely appreciated by all members of the Club. Through their efforts, news of the St. Louis Bird Club's activities was carried to many people who have since become our members and staunch friends. Since Miss Seevers' additional responsibilities made it difficult for her to continue with the full burden of the Bulletin, she will now act as Assistant Editor and general advisor. We thank her again for the pleasure her work on former issues of the Bulletin has brought to all of us.

We hope that all members of the Club will take an active interest in the Bulletin and send us any suggestions or news of interest that will help make this more than ever, Your Bulletin.

Members! Friends! If you know of a vacant spot on some prominent bulletin board, help us by posting notices of coming Bird Club lectures. Please get in touch with Wayne Short or your Editor for posters.

THANK YOU, MR. MASLOWSKI!

St. Louis Bird Club members and friends enjoyed another inspiring lecture by Karl H. Maslowski on January 19th at the St. Louis University Auditorium. A group of 400 persons applauded Mr. Maslowski's "Seashore to Glacier" film, the glacier part being particularly appropriate with the temperature at zero outside. The number attending, in spite of present difficulties of transportation and the weather man's ten below zero prediction, was a clear indication of the speaker's popularity.

Highlights of the film were: Black-necked Stilt bouts with flocks of sheep in Texas; a baby jack-rabbit's face-washing troubles; whistling marmots stuffing their tummies for winter; and gorgeous flower and scenery shots. Thank you again, Mr. Maslowski.

WINTER BIRD FEEDING

As we anticipate tightening our belts because of limited food supplies, let's not forget the birds who are faced with strict rationing every year at this time. In fact, February is known as the starvation month because all forms of natural bird foods are at their lowest ebb during that month.

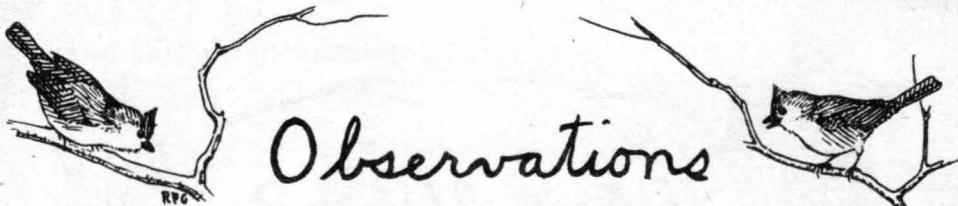
Bird feeding during the winter is a profitable venture since it will bring to your yard many bird visitors who normally would be scattered over a much wider area in search of food. Excellent bird feeders and bird food may be purchased from the Palmer Seed Company as advertised in this Bulletin, or constructed at home from odds and ends.

A **Window Feeder** can be either a simple tray or glassed-in box at a south window with shelter near by; **Weather-Vane Feeders** are more elaborate and highly successful, being so placed on a post that wind striking the vane keeps the opening always to the windless side; **Trolley Feeders** are attached to a wire in the nearest tree and pulled a few inches closer to your window daily. A **Tepee Feeding Station** can be constructed in your garden of poles (covered with boughs or vines with plenty of openings for escape from cats) and should contain food, water, fine gravel and a hollow spot for soft loam for dust baths; **Coconut Feeders** are made, as the name implies, of coconuts with one of the ends cut off, suspended from a tree and stuffed with suet or peanut butter.

For use in the above feeders these foods are recommended: To attract **Woodpeckers**, suet; **Cardinals**, sunflower seed, corn, shelled and broken peanuts, scratch feed; **Titmice**, **Chickadees** and **Nuthatches**, finer foods, cracked nuts, bread crumbs, suet, sunflower seed; **Juncos**, scratch feed, millet, hemp, screenings, small seed mixtures; **Mockingbirds**, **Robins**, cut apples, oranges currants and raisins.

Remember, the larger the food the larger the bird, so if you want to avoid Starlings and Jays, watch the size of the food you use. Put bird food out the night before as the birds dine early. Don't forget to offer them drinking water too. And start now to get the best results.

MAIL THE ENCLOSED KUBICHEK LECT



Observations

Each year for the past five we've been compiling a list of "The Birds of the Year", the best observations of the year ranked according to their "bestness". This is a difficult job. It takes a great deal of time, requires a minute comparison of observations of the past decade, and a careful study of earlier records from Widmann and Bennitt. Probably no two people would rank the observations in quite the same order, but this is the way we would do it. We present to you "The Birds of '42":

1. Red-throated Loon: One at Lake Park, Ill.; Nov. 21st; Short, L. E. Smith, Mrs. J. E. Vollmar, Drury, Wolfe, Patton, Einspanier, Bedell, Ettinger, Henke, O'Moran, Lehmann; on Nov. 22nd by Bolinger, Heckler, Short, Einspanier, Lehmann, Ettinger.

2. Purple Gallinule: One at Wood River, Ill.; May 6th; captured specimen, first identified by O. C. K. Hutchinson.

3. Piping Plover: One at Hartford, Ill.; Aug. 15th; David Dale.

4. Holboell's Grebe: One at Creve Coeur Lake, Mo.; April 22nd; James Earl Comfort.

5. White-rumped Sandpiper: One at Peruque, Mo.; May 9th; Short, Mrs. J. E. Vollmar, L. and M. Freer, Dierker, White, Lehmann; on May 10th at Peruque by L. R. Ernst; on May 16th at Peruque by James Earl Comfort, Seven at Creve Coeur Lake, Mo.; Sept. 5th; Ernst, Elliott.

6. Ruddy Turnstone: One at Creve Coeur Lake, Mo.; Sept. 12th; Jimmy Jackson.

7. Arkansas Kingbird: One in St. Louis Co., Mo., Sept. 27th; Wolfe, Heckler, Gilcher, Henke.

8. White-winged Scoter: One near Alton, Ill.; Dec. 10th; dead specimen, identified by O. C. K. Hutchinson.

9. Snowy Egret: One in St. Charles Co., Mo.; Aug. 13th; L. R. Ernst. Five at Creve Coeur Lake, Mo.; Aug. 25th; Wayne Short; later same day by Beckmann, Harkness, and

on Aug. 29th by Bolinger, O'Moran. One at Creve Coeur; Sept. 6th; H. and J. Comfort, Mrs. R. Hill, and Mrs. C. Day. One at Creve Coeur; Sept. 18th; Short.

10. Old Squaw: One at Harbor Point Village, St. Charles Co., Mo.; Feb. 21st; Short, mar, Patton, Einspanier, M. and L. Freer, Fischer; on the 22nd by the Sunday Ornithology Class, Berkowitz, the Zempels, Leonard, Mrs. R. Hill, James Earl and Jim Comfort.

11. Sanderling: Two at Creve Coeur Lake, Mo.; Aug. 19th; Ernst, Short. Five at Creve Coeur; Aug. 22nd; Bolinger, Mrs. J. E. Vollmar, Patton, Einspanier, M. and L. Freer, Fischer, Lehmann, O'Moran, Short, Wolfe. Two at Creve Coeur; Sept. 7th; Short and M. Hill.

12. Bohemian Waxwing: One at Glendale, Mo.; March 22nd; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Comfort.

13. American Scoter: Two in St. Charles Co., Mo.; April 3rd; L. R. Ernst. Six at Alton, Ill.; Nov. 11th; David Dale.

14. Greater Scaup: One at Harbor Point Village, St. Charles Co., Mo.; Jan. 4th; Short, Bolinger, Einspanier.

15. Red-backed Sandpiper: One at Peruque, Mo.; May 16th; James Earl Comfort. One at Lake Park, Ill.; Oct. 9th and 15th; Wayne Short.

Honorable Mention: Northern Shrike, Saw-whet Owl, Krider's Hawk, Horned Grebe, Black-bellied Plover, Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, Duck Hawk (Details available on request).

Perhaps no bird of the year has created so much discussion as this year's Red-throated Loon. Although observed several hours during two days with a 40x telescope, there were still pros and cons because of the rarity of the species and the difficulty of distinguishing it from the winter-plumaged Common Loon. But the pros have won out on these points: thinness and tilt of the bill; size, compared with a summer-plumaged Common Loon nearby; extreme lightness of color (winter plumage); and, very significantly, the fact that during the fall, according to Allan Cruickshank, Red-throated Loons were observed in the interior in numbers for the first time in years. Some had oily plumages and, speculatively, may have abandoned their normal salt water habitat and its oily condition, due to ship sinkings, for fresh water.

Out of a possible 315 species that might be observed in the St. Louis region during a year's period, if all casuals and accidentals were to appear in the area in one year, the 1942 combined list of all observers remarkably totaled 255. This compares with 243 for 1941.



Who's Who?



Enlistment in the armed services kept the perennial "Birder of the Year", James Earl Comfort, from duplicating his 1940 and '41 records, and his impressive list of 208 species was topped by Wayne Short with 213 birds observed during 1942. Travel conditions and busier days dropped this year's figures to a new low compared with Comfort's 220 in 1941, 214 in 1940, Miss Ernst's all-time high of 231 and Wayne Short's 229 in 1939, and the same pair's 216 tie in 1938. Here are the leaders for '42: "Birder of the Year", Wayne Short, 213; second, James Earl Comfort, 208; followed by Harry Comfort, 207; Alberta Bolinger, 202; L. R. Ernst, 201; David Dale, 201; and Jimmy Jackson, 200. Normally, we stop at 200 but since this was a difficult year for birding, there are others who deserve recognition: Father Link, 199; Helen Einspanier, 197; Jack Van Benthuyssen, 197; Jim Comfort, 194; Mrs. Robert Hill, 189; Mrs. Arnold Zempel, 189; Mrs. Joseph E. Vollmar, 186; Ethel Wolfe, 182; Iva Leonard, 182; Mrs. Harry Comfort, 180; Albert Berkowitz, 169; Mrs. H. R. Grummann, 161; Mrs. Lloyd Freer, 154; and Mrs. Gertrude Drury, 150.

The St. Louis Bird Club has another member in uniform... this one, however, serves on the Home Front. Mrs. Grummann has found it necessary to resign her post as Secretary of the Bird Club due to increased duties as Vice-Chairman of the Nurses' Aide Corps of the local American Red Cross. The Club was fortunate to have had her services these past years, and her thorough knowledge of the Club membership made her work invaluable. During Mrs. Grummann's term as Secretary of the Bird Club, she saw the membership more than triple. This expansion necessarily meant more and more work but each new duty and responsibility was accepted willingly and graciously. Certainly Mrs. Grummann's resignation is a loss to the Club and we accept it with regret. But we're proud to yield to the Red Cross and we will still depend on her to serve the Club in an advisory capacity whenever possible.

New Sustaining Members since November: Mrs. Irene W. Johnson, Mary Mitchell, Mrs. Myron Northrop, and Mrs. T. P. Young. Changed to Sustaining: Myron Northrop, Stratford Lee Morton, and Luther Ely Smith.

New Active members since November: Mrs. Mayme P. Allen, John D. Battenberg, G. O. Cummins, David E. Dale, Mrs. Henry P. Duncker, Frances Farnsworth, Mrs. Evarts A. Graham, Bathildes Helmer, Mrs. Hazel P. Helsher, Alice T. Herthel, Emelia Hintze, Stanley Hrach, Frieda Kassebaum, Joseph M. Mitchell, Annette B. Morisseau, Hazel Philbrick, Mrs. Emma Pitthan, Isadora R. Poe, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Princell, Mrs. Margaret Reese, Mrs. Frank Ring, Mrs. Irma S. Rombauer, Nell Rose, Claudia Rudloff, L. P. Slattery, Mrs. George Smith, Alice O'Moran, Thad Snow, Marjorie Southerland, John Spreitzer, Nancy Steel, Mrs. Hilda Stroh, Aurelia J. Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Switzer, Hildegarde W. Tavenner, Jack Van Benthuyssen, Lewis C. Vollmar, Eugenia M. Wildermuth, Mrs. Amelia F. Yule.

The following members served on this year's Auditing Committee: Marjorie Smith, Emily Fischer and Frances Pickle. The treasurer's books were audited and found in order.

Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Zempel have moved to Kansas City for the duration. Dr. Zempel will be making his contribution to the war effort through his work on the National Labor Relations Board. They will both undoubtedly be active in the Burroughs Club at Kansas City.

This year's Nominating Committee, appointed by the Board, was composed of Arthur Pfaff, Chairman, Clara Heising and Mrs. Gertrude G. Drury.

John H. Gerard, well-known Bird Club member and wildlife photographer, has left St. Louis for the East. John is a photographer for the U. S. Coast Guard.

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